

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

According to one aspect of the claimed present invention, an inkjet recording device is provided which sets the recording mode of an image to be recorded based on a parameter that corresponds to the distance from which the image is to be viewed. More specifically, according to another aspect of the claimed present invention, the inkjet recording device sets the recording mode based on both a desired image quality and a size of the image to be recorded.

In general, when an image is viewed from a distance it is not required that the image have as high an image quality to be seen clearly as would be required if the image were viewed close-up. In addition, in general, a large image is intended to be viewed from a distance, while a small image is intended to be viewed close-up. Therefore, the size of the image can be considered to correspond generally to the distance from which the image is intended to be viewed.

With this in mind, according to the present invention as recited in independent claim 1, an inkjet recording device is provided which comprises: (i) a viewing distance setting unit for setting a parameter corresponding to a distance from which the recording medium is to be viewed, and (ii) a recording mode

setting unit for setting a recording mode based on the parameter set by the viewing distance setting unit. That is, according to the present invention as recited in independent claim 1, the recording mode for controlling the operation of the recording head is set based on the parameter that corresponds to viewing distance (i.e., image size).

According to the present invention as recited in claim 15, moreover, an inkjet recording device is provided which comprises: (i) an image quality level setting unit for setting an intended image quality level of the image to be recorded; (ii) a size identifying unit for identifying a recording size of the image to be recorded; and (iii) a recording setting unit for setting a recording mode based on the image quality level set by the image quality level setting unit and the recording size identified by the size identifying unit. That is, according to the present invention as recited in independent claim 15, the recording mode for controlling the operation of the recording head is set based on both the image size and the desired image quality.

For example, Fig. 9 of the present application shows that for various types of image recording, different image qualities ("NOISE LEVEL") may be set, including "HIGH QUALITY," "STANDARD" and "HIGH SPEED." In addition, the recording size corresponding to viewing distance may be set, for example, as A4 (300mm viewing distance), A3 (500mm viewing distance), and so on. Based on

these parameters, the recording mode is set. In this connection, it is noted that the recording mode may be defined by, for example, the resolution, the number of the paths, or the recording direction, as shown in Fig. 9.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has cited US 2002/0024558 ("Fujita et al") as disclosing the features of the present invention as recited in independent claims 1 and 15.

It is respectfully submitted, however, that Fujita et al does not, in fact, disclose, teach or suggest setting a recording mode based on a parameter corresponding to a distance from which an image will be viewed, as according to the present invention as recited in independent claim 1. And it is respectfully submitted that Fujita et al even more clearly does not disclose, teach or suggest setting a recording mode based on both an intended image quality and a recording size of the image to be recorded, as according to the present invention as recited in independent claim 15.

Instead, Fujita et al relates to producing photographic quality images without color irregularities. In particular, Fujita et al discloses a technology for arrangements of mask-data for thinning out pixels, and selecting a type of mask pattern for printing. Fujita et al, however, does not at all disclose, teach or suggest setting a recording mode based on a parameter corresponding to a viewing distance of the image, or more

specifically, based on a size and intended image quality of the image, as according to the claimed present invention.

Indeed, the portion of Fujita et al cited by the Examiner with respect to setting the size and recording mode of the image merely discloses that in an actual implementation, an 8 inch wide image will have 9600 pixels and the resolution capability of the printer will be 1200dpi, instead of the 16-pixel-wide main scanning length described to explain the technique of Fujita et al. Nevertheless, Fujita et al does not disclose, teach or suggest changing the recording mode based on the image size (parameter corresponding to the viewing distance).

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as recited in independent claims 1 and 15, and claims 2-14 and 16-26 respectively depending therefrom, clearly patentably distinguishes over Fujita et al, taken singly or in combination with any of the other prior art of record, under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

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Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

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